

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: DECEMBER 17 SPC DISCUSSION ON STABILIZING MEASURES

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

REF: STATE 222698

SUMMARY: SPC REACHED AGREEMENT ON TIMETABLE AND PROCEDURES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF DETAILED ALLIANCE PROPOSALS FOR THE FOUR STABILIZING MEASURES WHICH ALLIED NEGOTIATORS TABLED IN VIENNA ON DECEMBER 11. SOME ALLIES POSED SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO US REP ON US "ANNEX" (REFTEL) OF NOVEMBER 12. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE ON QUESTIONS REPORTED IN PARAS 3-4 BELOW, IF POSSIBLE IN TIME FOR MEETING OF SPC DRAFTING GROUP ON DECEMBER 19. END SUMMARY.

1. TIMETABLE AND PROCEDURES. SPC AGREED TO FOLLOWING NEXT STEPS ON STABILIZING MEASURES, WHICH WAS PROPOSED BY CHAIRMAN KASTL:

A. USING THE US ANNEX OF NOVEMBER 12 AS A STARTING POINT, SPC WILL PREPARE AN AGREED REPORT ON STABILIZING MEASURES
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BY JANUARY 8, LOOKING TOWARD NAC REVIEW AND FORWARDING TO AD HOC GROUP PRIOR TO RESUMPTION OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS ON JANUARY 15.

B. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS TASK IN THE SHORT TIME AVAILABLE, SPC CREATED AN POPEN-ENDED, AD HOC DRAFTING GROUP, WHICH WILL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19.

C. THE MBFR WORKING GROUP SHOULD ALSO DEVELOP COMMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS ON THE MILITARY/TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE U.S. ANNEX. THE WORKING GROUP SHOULD WORK IN PARALLEL WITH THE DRAFTING GROUP, FEEDING IN MILITARY/TECHNICAL COMMENTS AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

2. INITIAL REVIEW OF ANNEX. TO PROVIDE A FURTHER BASIS FOR DRAFTING GROUP AND WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS, SPC HAS A BRIEF, PARAGRAPH-BY-PARAGRAPH REVIEW OF THE U.S. ANNEX. IN PRELIMINARY COMMENTS, BELGIAN REP STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING SOME DEVICE FOR VERIFYING STABILIZING MEASURES. CANADIAN REP POINTED OUT FOURTH MEASURE ACTS AS A VERIFICATION OF MEASURES II AND III, LEAVING ONLY MEASURE I UNVERIFIED. U.S. REP DREW ON STATE 245599 AND 235476 TO STRESS U.S. VIEW THAT STABILIZING MEASURES ARE AIDS TO VERIFICATION OF REDUCTIONS AND NOT INDEPENDENT MEASURES WHICH WOULD IN THEMSELVES REQUIRE VERIFICATION. WHILE ALLIES WOULD NEED TO BE ALERT TO ANY LACK OF COMPLIANCE WITH A STABILIZING MEASURE AGREEMENT THEY WOULD BE OVERBURDENING THE NEGOTIATIONS IF THEY TRIED TO NEGOTIATE A SEPARATE SYSTEM OF VERIFICATION APPLYING JUST TO STABILIZING MEASURES.

3. THE PRINCIPAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS WERE AS FOLLOWS (KEYED TO MEASURES IN ANNEX):

MEASURE I --CANADIAN REP ASKED TO WHICH "AGREEMENT" (FIRST SENTENCE PARA 1) MEASURE WOULD APPLY. RE PARA 3, DUTCH REP ASKED IF USE OF "5,000" HAD ANY PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE. (COMMENT: REQUEST GUIDANCE ON THESE POINTS, INCLUDING U.S. VIEWS ON WHETHER "AGREEMENT" WOULD BE A SEPARATE AGREEMENT ON STABILIZING MEASURES OR WHETHER WASHINGTON ENVISAGES THIS AS AN AGREEMENT WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF AN OVERALL REDUCTIONS AGREEMENT. END COMMENT)

MEASURE II--BELGIAN REP ASKED IF "ALL OTHER PARTIES" OR
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ONLY "THE OTHER PARTY" WOULD BE NOTIFIED. BELGIUM FAVORS MULTILATERAL EXCHANGE OF NOTIFICATIONS. (COMMENT: CAN WE ACCEPT "TO ALL OTHER PARTIES?" END COMMENT) U.S. REP REMINDED MC REP OF OUTSTANDING U.S. REQUEST FOR SACEUR COMMENTS ON THE NUMBER OF DAYS OF ADVANCED NOTIFICATION.

MEASURE III --COMMITTEE RECALLED THAT DRAFTING GROUP SHOULD DROP PASSAGES IN THIS MEASURE REFERRING TO "LOCATIONS." THE U.S. REP RECALLED REQUEST FOR SACEUR VIEWS ON CUTOFF POINT FOR THE AGGREGATE NUMBER OF GROUND FORCE ELEMENTS WHICH WOULD BE LIMITED UNDER THIS MEASURE.

MEASURE IV -- FRG REP REQUESTED WORKING GROUP VIEWS ON THE

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OF OBSERVERS UNDER THIS MEASURE.

4. ANOTHER QUESTION WHICH CAME UP DURING DISCUSSION AND WHICH WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE DISCUSSED IN GREATER DETAIL IN THE FUTURE IS THE METHOD WHICH U.S. ENVISAGES FOR DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN U.S. AND OTHER ALLIED FORCES IN MULTI-NATIONAL EXERCISES, IN THE CONTEXT OF THESE STABILIZING MEASURES, WHICH APPLY TO U.S. AND SOVIET FORCES ONLY. WE WOULD APPRECIATE AN INDICATION OF WASHINGTON'S THINKING ON THIS SUBJECT.
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